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# BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Human Trafficking Office

### Purpose and History

Human trafficking is defined under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as the recruitment; harboring; transporting; or obtaining of a person by means of force, fraud, or coercion for purposes of servitude, debt bondage, slavery, or participation in the sex trade. It may include, but does not require, physical movement of the victims. Human trafficking may also dovetail into other crimes such as drug trafficking, larceny, and money laundering, as traffickers are frequently involved in other illegal activities.

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division of the Iowa Department of Human Rights states that human trafficking is believed to occur at higher rates than state-level data captures, but the actual numbers of occurrence are unknown. Efforts to identify and combat human trafficking in Iowa include:

- The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy has integrated training on human trafficking into basic academy courses for new recruits and hires.
- The Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Attorney General's Office provides services to human trafficking victims and trains local and State justice system professionals to recognize and report incidents of human trafficking.
- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a Human Trafficking Office.

### Funding

- The DPS received \$200,000 in General Funds and 2.0 FTE positions in HF 2459, the Standing Appropriations Bill, during the 2016 General Assembly to establish the Human Trafficking Office. During the 2017 Legislative Session, SF 509, the Justice System Appropriations Act, lowered the FY 2017 appropriation to \$150,000 for the Human Trafficking Office, but maintained the 2.0 FTE positions. The duties of this Office include:
  - Serve as the point of contact for anti-human trafficking activity within the State of Iowa.
  - Consult and work with other agencies and organizations having expertise in dealing with the crime of human trafficking.
  - Develop a strategy to collect and maintain criminal history data on incidents related to human trafficking.
  - Develop a strategy for sharing victim and offender data among governmental agencies.
  - Apply for and assist other governmental agencies to apply for grants to combat human trafficking.

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### More Information

Department of Public Safety: [www.dps.state.ia.us](http://www.dps.state.ia.us)

Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Attorney General's Office: [www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims/victim-services-support-program](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims/victim-services-support-program)

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: [www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/3244](http://www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/3244)

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- Research and recommend training to identify and respond to human trafficking victims.
- Report by November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, to the General Assembly regarding the Office's activities related to combatting human trafficking and the identified occurrences of human trafficking within the State.

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapter [80](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [661](#)

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